In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 16, without prejudice, amend claims 2, 6, 11-13 and 15, and add new claims 17-18 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 11, wherein said at least one insulating solid piece is made of any of silicon dioxide, silicon nitride, alumina, glass and resin.

3. (Previously Presented) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 11, wherein said first and second stable electrode walls extend in parallel with each other.

4. (Previously Presented) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 11, wherein said movable electrode is a frame member surrounding the first and second stable electrode walls.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 11, further comprising insulating layers interposed between the first stable electrode column and the base substrate and between the second stable electrode column and the base substrate,

wherein the first and second stable electrode walls ~~is~~are fixed to the base substrate with the insulating layers respectively.

7-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) An electrostatic actuator comprising:

a movable electrode disposed for relative displacement along a basement plane and defining first and second opposed surfaces opposed to each other~~, said movable electrode having a thickness W~~;

a first stable electrode column standing on a base substrate ~~and including a bottom surface opposed to the base substrate~~;

a second stable electrode column standing on the base substrate at a location spaced from the first stable electrode~~, and including a bottom surface opposed to the base substrate~~ column;

a first stable electrode wall connected to the first stable electrode column and extending between the first and second stable electrode columns, said first stable electrode wall ~~having a thickness W and~~ being opposed to the first opposed surface of the movable electrode;

a second stable electrode wall connected to the second stable electrode column and extending between the first and second stable electrode columns, said second stable electrode wall ~~having a thickness W and~~ being opposed to the second opposed surface of the movable electrode; and

at least one~~an~~ insulating solid piece connecting at least an end of the first stable electrode wall near the second stable electrode column to the second stable electrode column and an end of the second stable electrode wall near the first stable electrode column to the first stable electrode column.~~walls; and~~

~~insulating layers interposed between the bottom surface of the first stable electrode column and the base substrate and between the bottom surface of the second stable electrode column and the base substrate,~~

~~wherein the first and second stable electrode columns are located in a space between first and second datum planes, the first datum plane is defined to include an outward surface of the first stable electrode wall, the second datum plane is defined to include an outward surface of the second stable electrode wall, and a distance between the first and second datum planes is equal to or larger than three times the thickness W of the movable electrode.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 11, wherein ~~each of the bottom surfaces of the first and second stable electrode columns is~~the movable electrode has a thickness W, and each of the first and second stable electrode

columns includes a bottom surface opposed to the base substrate, each of the bottom surfaces being formed into a quadrate shape, four sides of the quadrate shape having a length equal to or larger than a length 3W.

13. (Currently Amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 11, wherein the movable electrode has a thickness W, each of the first and second stable electrode columns includes a bottom surface opposed to the base substrate, and each of the bottom surfaces of the first and second stable electrode columns has an area that is larger than $9W^2$.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 11, wherein each of the first and second stable electrode columns includes a bottom surface opposed to the base substrate,

the electrostatic actuator further comprising:

insulating layers interposed between the bottom surface of the first stable electrode column and the base substrate and between the bottom surface of the second stable electrode column and the base substrate;

a conductive wiring pattern extending on the base substrate;

a first electrically conductive piece interposed between the conductive wiring pattern and the bottom surface of the first stable electrode column, the first electrically conductive piece being surrounded by one of the insulating layers; and

a second electrically conductive piece interposed between the conductive wiring pattern and the bottom surface of the second stable electrode column, the second electrically conductive piece being surrounded by another one of the insulating layers.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 11, wherein the at least one insulating solid piece connects the first and second stable electrode walls.

18. (New) The electrostatic actuator according to claim 11, wherein the moveable electrode has a thickness W, each of the first and second stable electrode walls has a thickness W, the first and second stable electrode columns are located in a space between the first and second datum planes, the first datum plane is defined to include an outward surface of the first stable electrode wall, the second datum plane is defined to include an outward surface of the second stable electrode wall and a distance between the first and second datum planes is equal to or larger than three times the thickness W of the movable electrode.